

**REMARKS**

Claims 29, 38 and 41-43 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 29 is amended and claims 41-43 are added. No new matter is added by these amendments as support can be found in at least paragraphs [0102] and [0119]-[0123], and Fig. 10 of Applicant's specification. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,727 to Kanai et al. (hereinafter "Kanai"). Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 29 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Kanai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,209 to Kido et al. (hereinafter "Kido"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that independent claim 29 is anticipated by the Kanai reference. However, Kanai does not teach, nor would it have suggested, the claimed combination including "a metal deactivator layer containing at least one of a triazole compound and a hydrazide compound provided between the luminescent layer and the cathode, and provided in contact with the luminescent layer," as positively recited in amended claim 29. Instead, based on the Office Action's assertion that the cathode interface layer 4 (Figs. 1-5 of Kanai) corresponds to the metal deactivator, the cathode interface layer of Kanai does not contain at least one of a triazole compound and a hydrazide compound. Kanai, at least at col. 7, line 66 - col. 9, line 42, provides a listing of compounds suitable for the cathode interface layer. The list of suitable compounds does not include either a triazole or a hydrazine compound, as positively recited in amended claim 29.

Further, while Kanai discloses that the cathode interface layer 4 performs the role of preventing the diffusion of the cathode material into the organic fluorescent layer (col. 8, lines 1-2), Kanai does not disclose that the cathode interface layer 4 is a metal deactivation layer,

comprising at least one of a triazole compound and a hydrazine compound, that "takes in the metal composition, thereby inhibiting the activation of the metal component to reduce or prevent the metal component from reacting or interacting with the organic functional material." e.g., [0102].

The applied reference of Kido does not overcome the deficiency of Kanai as discussed above with respect to amended claim 29.

Claims 41 and 42 are allowable for at least their dependence from allowable claim 29, either directly or indirectly, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites. Product by process claim 43 is allowable for at least the reasons argued above. The subject matter of claim 43 has not been previously claimed.

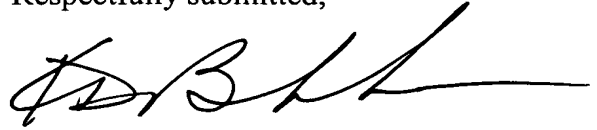
For at least the above reasons, Kanai and Kido, in any permissible combination, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claim 29. Further, claim 38 would also not have been suggested by the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of this claim on allowable independent claim 29, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that this claim recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 29 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 29, 38 and 41-43 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: February 21, 2008

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